★

News

Your County

Group to explore shooting range

Commissioner hopes Open Space will find central site

By Joe Vaccarelli
YourHub Reporter

Jefferson County Open Space is forming a working group to study options for a possible outdoor public shooting range somewhere in the county.

In assembling the group, Open Space is looking for three citizens interested in serving the working group alongside representatives from PLAN Jeffco, The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and several other groups from across the county and the state.

The group will be tasked with exploring the possibility of a public shooting range, looking at possible locations and making a proposal to the Board of County Commissioners this summer.

"I think it's because there's been such an interest expressed by residents to hone their skills, whether for recreation or competitive shooting. Really that's what's driving it," Jeffco Open Space partnership coordinator Nancy York said. York will select the citizens who will participate in the group.

York said she is taking applications through Feb. 24, but if some came in through the end of the month, she would consider them. Interested citizens should have familiarity with the county, a willingness to serve and be available to meet regularly. Experience with sports shooting would be a plus.

The board of commissioners charged Jeffco Open Space with exploring the option for a public shooting range. At a meeting last month, Open Space representatives suggested the formation of a working group to invest more time on the subject.

Paul Caldra offers Tammi McCoy some trap shooting pointers at Kiowa Creek Sporting Club in Bennett in 2006. The possibility of an open-air shooting range in Jefferson County will be explored by Jeffco Open Space.
Glen Martin, Denver Post file photo

"We were receiving numerous requests of the commissioners asking why we didn't have a shooting range," District 3 Commissioner Don Rosier said.

Rosier said Jeffco has numerous potential sites in various parts of the county, but hopes the working group will find a suitable central location accessible to all residents.

York said the board will likely meet monthly, or more often if necessary. She has a target date of July 15 to make a presentation to the county commissioners.

The work group can make use of a study done about 25 years ago prior to the development of the law enforcement shooting range near Thunder Valley Motocross Park in Lakewood. That site was originally explored as a public shooting range, but the county decided to allow only law enforcement use.

"We're really looking to that as a model to tackle the issue," York said.

Joe Vaccarelli: 303-954-2396, jvaccarelli@denverpost.com